

A b s t r a c t

Peptides obtainable by

- adding proteases to cow's milk or human milk, followed by incubation for two hours;
- centrifugation to remove milk fat;
- acidification to a pH of 2.0 with strong acids;
- removing the precipitated proteins;
- application of at least one reverse phase HPLC step;
- application of a cation-exchange HPLC step;
- collecting fractions;
- adjusting the fractions to a salt content of < 25 mM by dialysis or reverse phase HPLC for performing activity tests;
- culturing *Bifidobacterium bifidum* and *E. coli* in the presence of the fractions and selecting fractions which meet the requirement:

$$\frac{BW}{B0} - \frac{EW}{E0} \geq 0.15 \text{ (bifidogenic)}$$

wherein BW represents the germ count obtained upon 16 hours of incubation of *Bifidobacterium bifidum* in 50% Elliker broth in the presence of the peptides in a concentration of 200 µg/ml;

EW represents the germ count obtained upon 16 hours of incubation of *E. coli* in 3 g/l tryptic soy broth in the presence of the peptides in a concentration of 200 µg/ml;

- isolation of the peptide contained in this fraction;

and the amidated, acetylated, sulfated, phosphorylated, glycosylated, oxidized derivatives or fragments thereof having bifidogenic properties, and peptides obtainable by the combination of the peptides, fragments or derivatives by chemical bonding.

INS  
CB

[illegible]